



**Rep. John Pennington**  
409 Legislative Building  
(360) 786-7812



**Rep. Tom Mielke**  
418 John L. O'Brien Building  
(360) 786-7850



**Sen. Joe Zarelli**  
203 Institutions Building  
(360) 786-7634

**LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE**  
1-800-562-6000

**WORKING TOGETHER, GETTING RESULTS**

*All the people and families of Washington will be the beneficiaries of a truly remarkable legislative session in 1997.*

*We succeeded in enacting historic reforms to our welfare system, dramatic improvements in the way we protect the public from juvenile crime, and needed tax relief for the hard-working citizens of this state. We also adopted a budget and policies to improve education and continued our efforts to control the growth of government.*

*Most important, we worked together as a team to solve problems and address concerns of our 18th District constituents. This cooperation has helped improve the quality of representation for Southwest Washington.*

*Together, we are making government more accountable and responsive to the public.*

*Sincerely,*

**JOHN PENNINGTON**

**JOE ZARELLI**

**TOM MIELKE**

**COMING SOON . . .**

We will again be establishing a legislative office in the district to better serve the residents of this area. Watch for an announcement of the location and opening of our office.



**A RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT**



***Fixing the welfare system . . .***

A work requirement for able-bodied recipients. Incentives and assistance to help people in need support themselves and their families. Strict time limit on welfare benefits.



***Fighting juvenile crime . . .***

Appropriate sentences for every juvenile offender. Measures to hold youngsters accountable for their actions. Tougher punishment for violent teen-age criminals.



***Protecting taxpayers . . .***

A responsible budget that puts education first. Spending well below the Initiative 601 limit. Meaningful relief for property taxpayers and small businesses.



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**1997 LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

**Senator JOE ZARELLI**  
**Representative JOHN PENNINGTON**  
**Representative TOM MIELKE**  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600



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*Representative*  
**JOHN PENNINGTON**

*Senator*  
**JOE ZARELLI**

*Representative*  
**TOM MIELKE**

# 1997 Legislative Report



*Senator Joe Zarelli serves on the budget-writing Ways and Means Committee and on the Rules Committee, which determines which legislation will be schedule for action by the full Senate. In addition, he is vice chairman of the Human Services and Corrections Committee, and a member of the Education and Law and Justice committees*



*Representative John Pennington was elected speaker pro-tem. His responsibilities include presiding over the House and being part of the majority leadership team. Pennington also serves as one of the two House members on the Legislative Ethics Committee. In addition, he is on the Natural Resources, Finance and Rules committees*



*Representative Tom Mielke is vice chairman of the Transportation Policy and Budget Committee. He also serves on the Energy and Utilities, and Government Reform and Land Use committees.*

## IMPROVING THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN

We set out to put greater emphasis on academics, improve discipline in the classroom, and provide more choices and opportunities for students, teachers and parents.

The budget adopted this year increases support for education while also making certain more of our resources will be directed into the classroom to improve the teaching of our children. We provided educators with the tools and authority to maintain greater discipline so that our schools will provide a safe learning environment. And we are freeing local schools from unnecessary and excessive regulations and red tape.

## CONTROLLING THE GROWTH OF GOVERNMENT

We are fighting to control government spending and provide real tax relief to the people and families of Washington. **Our goal is to allow taxpayers to keep more of their own hard-earned income, so they can do more to support themselves, their families and their communities.**

The Legislature adopted a responsible, effective budget that meets the needs of individuals and families in Washington while limiting the growth of government to the lowest level in 25 years. By keeping spending well below the limit established by Initiative 601, we are controlling the size of government now and in the future.

## PROVIDING RELIEF TO TAXPAYERS

We passed property tax relief and reform that would save the owner of a \$110,000 home as much as \$23,000 over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Our plan also would provide protection from huge assessment increases. And our proposal would offer lasting protection for homeowners by setting a stricter limit on annual levy increases at all levels of government.

Unfortunately, the governor vetoed this property tax measure. It will be up to the voters to decide in November whether the property tax relief and reform we offer addresses their concerns and meets their needs.

We also completed repeal of the massive B&O tax increases imposed in 1993. We intended to provide immediate relief to those small businesses targeted by the B&O tax hikes. But the governor's use of his veto power resulted in another delay, with this change now taking effect in 1998.

## FIGHTING JUVENILE CRIME

We took strong action against crime in our communities by enacting historic reforms in the juvenile justice system. Our reforms will protect the public from violent juveniles and improve our ability to prevent teen-age crime.

Our reforms include treating the most dangerous 16- and 17-year-old criminals as adults so that the punishment will fit the crime.

We are giving prosecutors and judges the tools and ability to impose an appropriate sentence for every offender — punishment or rehabilitation. **It is our intention that every juvenile who breaks the law will face consequences for their actions, beginning with the first offense.**

## FIXING THE WELFARE SYSTEM

This session we enacted responsible reforms ending welfare as an entitlement by requiring able-bodied welfare recipients to work for their benefits. We are ensuring that welfare recipients accept personal responsibility for doing what it takes to become self-sufficient.

Our reforms require able-bodied recipients to work or actively participate in job-training and job-search programs. Our reforms place a strict time limit on benefits for able-bodied individuals. We are providing the incentives and assistance needed to help people be able to support themselves and their families.